

# Survey of Family Income<sup>1</sup>

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Incomes of native white families vary widely from one community of the country to another, medians ranging from slightly more than \$700 to approximately \$1,800, according to a recent survey of family incomes and expenditures.

Of the 158,000 families on which preliminary data have been released, the proportion which had been on relief at some time during the schedule year varied considerably from city to city and village to village, the range among the white families being from 6 percent in Westbrook, Maine, to 51 percent in the 19 villages in Illinois and Iowa, and among the Negro families from 15 percent in Gastonia, N. C., to 84 percent in Griffin, Ga.

In every community surveyed the average size of relief families was larger than that of nonrelief families, considered as a group.

Forty-four percent of the nonrelief families surveyed owned their homes, with home ownership being relatively greater among the families reporting higher incomes. The highest percentage of home ownership was reported by families surveyed in villages.

**T**HE family is the most important consuming unit in our economy; yet comparatively little is known about the variation in income between families engaged in different occupational pursuits, between families located in different geographical regions, and between families living in cities of different sizes. Also, little is known regarding the relative importance of the expenditures which are made for various goods and services. Studies have been made in the field of family incomes and expenditures in the past, but generally they have been confined to intensive analyses of rela-

tively small samples of families, usually in one or two occupational groups. The few extensive surveys of expenditures that have been made usually were limited to a narrow range of items. The income-expenditure study now being completed by the various agencies will be based on one of the largest samples ever analyzed.<sup>1</sup> It will reveal the detailed incomes and expenditures of families in different income groups in a large number of cities, towns, and villages. The sample will cover more than 200,000 families. The information received up to the date of writing covers more than half of these families, and it is upon this information that the following discussion is based. With the exception of rent payments, no discussion of expenditures is included because too little information has been released to formulate any conclusion about them.<sup>2</sup>

The data presented here cover 151,692 families, of which 28,594 lived in Chicago, 35,711 in 3 large cities, 38,902 in 9 middle-sized cities, 32,660 in 25 small cities, and 15,825 in 107 villages. The sample is small in comparison with the total number of families in the United States; as yet no analyses have been published regarding its representativeness. No doubt the characteristics of the families included represent those of a large segment of the domestic population. Any attempts to make broad generalizations, however, must await the completion of the study and an analysis of the sample.

## Occupational Characteristics.

In 1936, approximately 67 percent of the total national income was distributed as compensation to employees,<sup>3</sup> with by far the largest percentage of all compensation being paid out in wages. As is shown

In the actual survey, minor deviations were made from these size ranges, in order to satisfy other requirements of the study. Farm families were studied in areas representing seven rather clearly marked types of farming.

In this discussion, the word "locality" is used to designate a city of any given size, a group of villages for which data have been summarized together, or any group of farm counties for which data have been tabulated similarly.

For each locality a random sample of native white families having two or more persons was selected; in the Southeast, a similar random sample of Negro families was secured. For the whole study, this random sample included more than 200,000 families ranging from 4 percent of the family population in New York City and 30 percent in Chicago to 100 percent in the farm and village localities. Each of these families was visited by an investigator to obtain the desired information on income, occupation and family composition. Later a sufficient proportion of these families was revisited to obtain detailed expenditure schedules for a sample representative of the native white families (and of Negro families in the Southeast) over an income range extending from less than \$250 per year to over \$10,000, including eight occupational groups, and seven family types (differentiated in terms of age and number of family members).

As tabulations of the data are completed, preliminary releases presenting some of the information have been distributed by the administering bureaus. This article has been prepared on the basis of these releases. Publication of the final analyses, including a discussion of methodology, will take place during the coming year.

<sup>1</sup> For the same reason, no summaries relating to farm localities are included.

<sup>2</sup> Robert R. Nathan, National Income 1929-36, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

<sup>1</sup> This article is based on data secured in a cooperative field study conducted by the Bureau of Home Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, administered under a grant of funds from the Works Progress Administration. The National Resources Committee and the Central Statistical Board cooperated in the planning and coordination of the Nation-wide study. The primary purpose of the investigation was to secure data on the apportionment of family expenditures among different goods and services, for families with different incomes, occupations, and age and sex composition. Field work has now been completed and the two bureaus are engaged in an analysis of the material for early publication in a series of bulletins.

The study was conducted in the field, with information being entered on schedules by investigators. For most families the year reported began in 1935 and extended into 1936, although, if the family already had information in prepared form for 1935, such as an income-tax return, this information was accepted.

The study in its entirety covers native white families in selected regions or areas throughout the United States, and Negro families in the southeastern part of the country and in Columbus, Ohio, and New York City. Six main areas were surveyed. The areas selected, with the states included are:

Northeast: New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, Vermont.

Southeast: Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi.

East Central: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Michigan.

West Central: Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, North Dakota.

Rocky Mountain: Montana, Colorado, Utah, South Dakota, Wyoming.

Pacific: Oregon, Washington, California.

From these areas, communities were selected as being typical of various size-ranges of urban localities and representative of farm localities engaged in different types of agricultural pursuits. The communities fell into the following classes: (1) metropolis, (2) large city, (3) middle-sized city, (4) small city, (5) village, and (6) farm counties. The plan was to cover urban communities within the following population ranges:

Metropolis.....	Over 1,000,000
Large city.....	250,000-1,000,000
Middle-sized city.....	50,000-250,000
Small city.....	5,000-50,000
Village.....	500-5,000

in figure 1,<sup>4</sup> approximately 49 percent of the families surveyed were those of wage earners. Families of wage

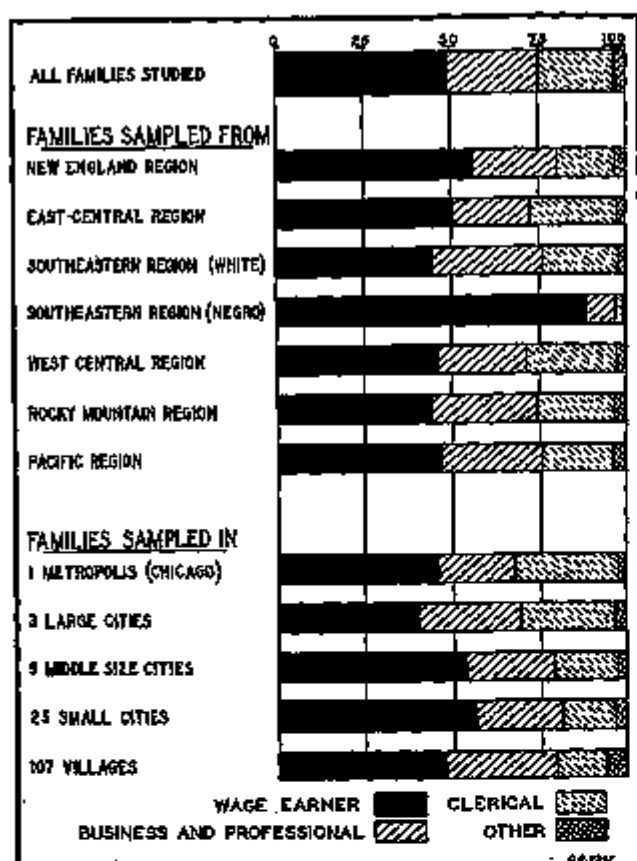


Figure 1.—Occupational Distribution of Nonrelief Families. (U. S. Department of Agriculture and Labor.)

earners constituted a larger percentage of the enumerated families in the localities surveyed in the New England area than in any other area, while among all regions they represented the smallest percentage in the Rocky Mountain area.<sup>5</sup> In the Southeast, families of business and professional workers were relatively more numerous than in any other region, whereas the smallest percentages were shown in the East Central region. The West Central region included the highest percentage of families of clerical workers—probably because of the inclusion of Chicago, a metropolitan center, in the sample—while New England had the lowest.<sup>6</sup>

Upon classifying these families according to the size groups of communities in which they lived, it was found that small cities had a larger proportion of

wage earners' families than did the larger cities. The percentage of clerical workers' families, on the other hand, increased as the population of the cities increased, varying from 14 percent in villages to 31 percent in Chicago.

#### Families on Relief.

Of the 151,392 families on which data are now available, approximately one-seventh received relief at some time during the year.<sup>7</sup> There were marked variations between communities in the percentage of families on relief, ranging from 6 to 31 percent, but, despite these variations, certain consistent characteristics of the sample were noted. Among native white families surveyed, the proportions on relief were generally lower in localities in the Eastern areas than in the Western areas. Also, a larger percentage of families in villages were on relief than in any of the size groups of cities, regardless of location. A larger percentage of families received relief in middle-sized cities than in either the large or the small cities. Also a higher proportion of the Negro families in the Southeastern region received relief than did the native white families reporting from the same region. This does not represent the actual percentage of relief families in any given locality, because all foreign-born families, Negro families (except in the Southeast), and families which did not include both husband and wife were excluded.

#### Size of Families.

As is shown in table 1, the average size of relief families covered by the survey was larger than that of

Table 1.—Average Number of Persons Per Family by Region and by Size of Community.<sup>1</sup>

Region and community	Total	Families on relief <sup>2</sup>	Non-relief families	Nonrelief families			
				Business and professional	Clerical	Wage earner	Other
All families studied..	3.6	4.2	3.5	3.5	2.6	3.8	2.7
Region:							
New England.....	3.6	4.3	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.6	2.6
East Central.....	3.0	4.3	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.6	2.7
Southwestern:							
White.....	4.0	4.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	4.2	3.8
Negro.....	3.9	4.3	3.3	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.0
West Central.....	3.2	4.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.8	2.7
Rocky Mountain.....	3.5	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.0
Pacific region.....	3.4	3.8	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	2.4
Unclassified areas <sup>3</sup> .....	3.3	4.4	3.5	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)
Community:							
1 metropolis (Chicago).....	3.0	4.3	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.6	2.7
3 large cities.....	3.4	3.9	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	2.6
9 middle-size cities.....	3.7	4.1	3.0	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.6
25 small cities.....	3.8	4.4	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.8	2.6
107 villages.....	3.5	4.4	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	2.7

<sup>1</sup> Native white families containing both husband and wife, except in the Southeast, where Negro families containing both husband and wife were included.

<sup>2</sup> Families which received relief at any time during the year.

<sup>3</sup> Exclusive of 2,325 nonrelief families in 16 villages in Georgia and South Carolina which are included in the average for all nonrelief families.

<sup>4</sup> Exclusive of 4,181 and 3,208 nonrelief families in 4 small cities and 24 villages in Washington, Oregon, and California, respectively, which are included in the average for all nonrelief families.

<sup>5</sup> Families reported in releases covering overlapping regions.

<sup>6</sup> Data not available.

<sup>7</sup> For 21 small cities.

<sup>8</sup> For 64 villages.

Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Home Economics.

<sup>9</sup> Throughout this study, relief families are those that received relief payments at any time during the year.

<sup>4</sup> Families were classified according to the occupational pursuits of the chief earner. Thus, the expressions "clerical families" or "families of clerical workers" indicate that the principal earners in such families were clerical workers.

<sup>5</sup> An exception to this is noted in the Southeastern region where Negro families included a larger percentage of families of wage earners than did native white families reporting from any area. These families, however, were in the lowest income bracket, as is pointed out in a later portion of the discussion.

<sup>6</sup> This is true largely because the sample from the West Central region included the Chicago families. Had returns for a metropolis been included in the sample of some other region, then the percentage of clerical families in that region undoubtedly would have been higher. Data for New York City were not available at the time of this writing. If figures for that metropolis had been included for the East Central region, then a higher percentage of clerical workers would have been shown.

nonrelief families as a group in all areas and types of localities. When families were classified by income, however, it was found that in some of the higher income classes, average family size was almost as large as among the relief group. Composition of the families was quite different, those in the relief group having a larger proportion of children, while those in the higher income levels were composed predominantly of adults and thus had several potential earners. The largest relief and nonrelief families enumerated were found in the Southeastern and West Central areas. In most of the localities the average size of wage earners' families was greatest, families of clerical workers ranked next in average size, and families of principal earners engaged in business or professional occupations were the smallest. The average size of families was larger in the villages and small cities than in the larger cities.

There were more of two-person families than any other one type, although almost one-half of the native white families consisted of three or four persons. In general, these ratios persisted for the individual localities.

#### Variation in Income Between Localities.

From table 2 it is seen that the typical size of family income varied considerably between localities. The median incomes of all native white families in the 46 localities for which preliminary reports have been released ranged from \$737 in 19 villages in Illinois and Iowa, to \$1,859 in Columbia, S. C., a middle-sized city.

The median income of families enumerated in Chicago was \$1,635. In the five cities for which data on Negro families are available, the median income varied from \$392 to \$548 for all Negro families and from \$460 to \$636 for nonrelief Negro families. The median income was consistently less for relief than for nonrelief families. Generally the incomes were higher in the larger cities, but numerous exceptions to this tendency appear in the results.

#### Variations in Income According to Occupation.

Families of wage earners comprised by far the largest proportion of the sample, and median incomes reported for such families were lower than those for any other occupational group.<sup>1</sup> (See table 3.) Median incomes of native white wage-earner families varied from \$1,002 to \$1,569 in the different cities for which data have been released, with higher figures generally reported in the larger cities. The second lowest median incomes were reported for the families of those engaged in independent business. Other occupational groups ascending in order of rank were as follows: Clerical; salaried professional; salaried business; and independent professional. In most cities the income of independent professional families was more than double the income of wage-earner families.

<sup>1</sup> Up to the present time the Bureau of Home Economics has not released any figures on the typical incomes of families by occupational groups. Hence, this part of the discussion is restricted to a treatment of information released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2.—Median Income of Families<sup>1</sup>

Families sampled in—	All families	Relief families <sup>2</sup>	Non-relief families	Families sampled in—	All families	Relief families <sup>2</sup>	Non-relief families
New England region:				Southeastern region—Continued.			
Middle-size city:				Villages:			
New Britain, Conn.	\$1,408	\$766	\$1,508	15 in Georgia and South Carolina (white)	\$1,125		\$1,309
Small cities:				West Central region:			
Greenfield, Mass.	1,438		1,406	Large city:			
Wallingford, Conn.	1,430	860	1,490	Omaha, Neb.—Council Bluffs, Iowa	1,562	\$508	1,733
Weatherford, Md.	1,331		1,330	Middle-size city:			
Williamsville, Conn.	1,334	989	1,420	Dubuque, Iowa	1,084	654	1,279
Villages:				Small cities:			
14 in Vermont and Massachusetts	1,232		1,447	Boone, Iowa	1,194		1,400
East Central region:				Moberly, Mo.	1,165		1,200
Metropolis:				Villages:			
Chicago, Ill.	1,635	461	1,796	16 in Kansas and North Dakota	916		1,209
Middle-size city:				Rocky Mountain region:			
Muncie, Ind.	1,308	631	1,456	Large city:			
Small cities:				Denver, Colo.	1,527	900	1,705
Beaver Falls, Pa.	1,263	596	1,449	Middle-size cities:			
Connellsville, Pa.	1,230	514	1,406	Butte, Mont.	1,408	718	1,617
Lincoln, Ill.	865		1,180	Fueblo, Colo.	1,216	618	1,617
Lanesport, Ind.	1,155	672	1,308	Small cities:			
Mattoon, Ill.	1,065	437	1,378	Greely, Colo.	1,242		1,636
Mount Vernon, Ohio	1,182		1,307	Logan, Utah	1,274		1,580
New Philadelphia, Ohio	1,078		1,270	Provo, Utah	1,188		1,422
Perru, Ind.	1,102	583	1,322	Pacific region:			
Villages:				Large city:			
13 in Pennsylvania and Ohio	1,039		1,187	Portland, Ore.	1,497	604	1,664
Southeastern region:				Middle-size cities:			
Middle-size city:				Aberdeen-Rochester, Wash.	1,249	733	1,612
Columbia, S. C.	1,859	831	1,476	Bellingham, Wash.	1,027	479	1,387
White	558	385	690	Everett, Wash.	1,202	663	1,477
Negro				Small cities:			
Small cities:				Astoria, Ore.	1,581		1,683
Albany, Ga.	1,653	551	1,800	Eugene, Ore.	1,538		1,652
White	392	203	400	Elmendorf, Alaska	1,617		1,680
Negro				Olympia, Wash.	1,637		1,676
Gastonia, N. C.				Villages:			
White	1,071	544	1,174	12 in Washington and Oregon	1,023		1,266
Negro	400	361	631	12 in California	1,246		1,663
Griffin, Ga.				Unclassified villages: <sup>3</sup>			
White	1,180		1,250	19 in Illinois and Iowa	737		1,073
Negro	307		699	7 in Colorado, Montana, and South Dakota	1,335		1,467
Spartan, S. C.							
White	1,364		1,683				
Negro	436		492				

<sup>1</sup> Native white families containing both husband and wife except in the Southeast, where Negro families containing both husband and wife are also included.

<sup>2</sup> Families which received relief at any time during the year. These data have been released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics only.

<sup>3</sup> Families reported in releases covering overlapping regions.

Table 3.—Median Incomes for Nonrelief Families, by Occupational Groups in 22 Cities<sup>1</sup>

City	Salari- ed profes- sional	Salari- ed busi- ness	Inde- pendent profes- sional	Inde- pendent busi- ness	Cleri- cal	Wage earner	Other
New England region:							
Middle-size city:							
New Britain, Conn.	\$2,063	\$2,500	\$3,750	\$1,814	\$1,623	\$1,320	\$638
Small cities:							
Wallingford, Conn.	2,306	3,063	4,125	2,042	1,800	1,437	1,460
Willimantic, Conn.	2,658	2,422	3,600	1,955	1,628	1,256	1,000
East Central region:							
Metropolis:							
Chicago, Ill.	2,515	2,515	3,019	1,795	1,639	1,550	731
Middle-size city:							
Minneapolis, Minn.	2,320	2,340	3,060	1,517	1,627	1,340	731
Small cities:							
Beaver Falls, Pa.	2,120	2,250	3,125	1,008	1,717	1,256	781
Connellsville, Pa.	2,042	2,108	3,333	1,344	1,619	1,104	727
Legansport, Ind.	1,844	1,944	1,513	1,387	1,478	1,286	775
Mattoon, Ill.	1,828	2,229	2,550	1,315	1,574	1,261	606
Peru, Ind.	1,841	1,964	1,875	1,240	1,335	1,202	575
Southeastern region:							
Middle-size city:							
Columbia, S. C.							
White	2,728	2,972	4,375	2,173	2,021	1,335	1,475
Negro	1,045	875	1,875	740	1,044	815	333
Small cities:							
Albany, Ga.							
White	1,958	2,684	3,617	1,664	1,571	1,481	1,000
Negro					688	423	281
Gastonia, N. C.							
White	2,000	2,557	2,800	1,271	1,510	1,002	836
Negro					435	329	333
West Central region:							
Large city:							
Omaha-Connell Bluffs	2,300	2,800	3,170	1,734	1,887	1,423	638
Middle-size city:							
Dubuque, Iowa	1,975	2,420	2,667	1,360	1,555	1,129	490
Rocky Mountain region:							
Large city:							
Denver, Colo.	2,378	2,955	3,235	1,741	1,824	1,341	1,023
Middle-size city:							
Butte, Mont.	2,338	2,359	3,313	2,125	1,893	1,358	846
Fueblo, Colo.	1,838	2,348	2,666	1,294	1,087	1,374	634
Pacific region:							
Large city:							
Portland, Oreg.	2,171	2,690	2,669	1,545	1,765	1,445	617
Middle-size city:							
Aberdeen-Hoquiam							
Wash.	1,902	2,412	2,758	1,092	1,754	1,393	836
Bellingham, Wash.	1,804	2,152	2,875	1,444	1,607	1,243	644
Everett, Wash.	1,980	2,182	2,781	1,525	1,714	1,393	631

<sup>1</sup> Native white families containing both husband and wife, except in the Southeast, where Negro families containing both husband and wife were also included.

<sup>2</sup> All professional and business, \$950.

<sup>3</sup> All professional and business, \$750.

Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

#### Distribution of Families by Income Classes.

The percentage distribution of reporting nonrelief families by income classes is shown for each locality in figure 2. The data indicate that the largest proportion of Negro families were in the lowest income classes. In none of the localities for which data on Negroes have been released did more than 17 percent of the Negro families receive incomes in excess of \$1,000, and a large proportion of them (more than 50 percent in three cities) received incomes of less than \$500 during the year for which the reports were made. Among the native whites a much smaller proportion received incomes under \$500 than was the case among the Negroes. The highest proportion of native white families falling into this income class was found to be 14 percent in the group of 19 villages surveyed in Illinois and Iowa, and 10 percent in the group of 12 villages in Washington and Oregon. In most of the localities, the native white families reporting incomes below \$500 represented less than 5 percent of the total nonrelief families. Furthermore, in most of these localities larger proportions of the families had incomes above \$3,000 than below \$500. The largest percentage receiving over \$3,000 was for the native white families reporting from Columbia, S. C.,

where 24 percent were in this class. The favorable income showing for Columbia results chiefly from the fact that it is the State capital and also a center of Federal activities, with a relatively large proportion of its workers engaged in the better-paid occupations. The proportions of native white families receiving incomes above \$2,000 varied from 49 percent in Columbia, S. C., and 42 percent in Albany, Ga., to only 14 percent in the group of 19 villages in Illinois and Iowa.

#### Income by Size of Family.

For all income classes under \$2,000, families consisting of husband and wife were predominant.<sup>2</sup> Families of the fourth type ranked second for all families with incomes between \$500 and \$2,000. Families of the second type were second in order of predominance among those receiving less than \$500 a year and were predominant among those that had incomes between \$2,000 and \$3,000. For families receiving more than \$3,000 the fifth type was more frequent than any other. Type 1 was second in order of predominance for those receiving incomes in excess of \$2,000.

Almost 40 percent of the first type of family received less than \$1,000 of income. (See table 4.) Less than one-fifth of the families of this type received incomes in excess of \$2,000. With the exception of the fourth, fifth, and seventh types, more than 25 percent had incomes less than \$1,000. More than 20 percent of the families of all types, except the first and sixth, received incomes in excess of \$2,000.

Table 4.—Percentage Distribution of Reporting Nonrelief Families in 24 Communities, by Income Classes, by Types of Families<sup>1</sup>

Type of family <sup>2</sup>	Total	Under \$500	\$500 and under \$1,000	\$1,000 and under \$1,500	\$1,500 and under \$2,000	\$2,000 and under \$3,000	\$3,000 and over
All types.....	100.0	7.0	23.0	27.3	19.2	10.0	7.5
Type 1.....	100.0	12.0	27.8	25.3	15.5	12.5	5.5
Type 2.....	100.0	5.7	24.5	28.5	19.7	15.1	5.2
Type 3.....	100.0	4.5	21.8	25.2	31.3	10.2	5.8
Type 4.....	100.0	3.1	18.5	23.7	19.4	20.7	12.6
Type 5.....	100.0	3.9	18.5	23.0	20.4	21.5	12.7
Type 6.....	100.0	8.4	27.0	31.0	24.1	11.6	4.8
Type 7.....	100.0	4.6	23.5	30.1	21.7	15.0	7.5
Other types.....	100.0	3.1	16.4	22.6	22.0	17.7	13.7

<sup>1</sup> Native white families containing both husband and wife, except in the Southeast, where Negro families containing both husband and wife were also included.

<sup>2</sup> In this survey a classification of families by types was made. The types were as follows:

Type 1. 2 persons—husband, wife, and no other persons.  
Type 2. 3 persons—husband, wife, and 1 child under 18 years.  
Type 3. 4 persons—husband, wife, and 2 children under 16 years.  
Type 4. 3 or 4 persons—husband, wife, 1 person 16 years or over, and 1 or no other persons regardless of age.  
Type 5. 3 or 4 persons—husband, wife, and 1 child under 16 years, 1 person 16 years or over, and 1 or 2 other persons regardless of age.  
Type 6. 5 or 6 persons—husband, wife, and 3 or 4 children under 16 years.  
Type 7. 7 or 8 persons—husband, wife, at least 1 child under 16 years, and 4 or 5 other persons.  
Other types. All other family types not included in types 1 through 7.

Source: U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Home Economics.

<sup>3</sup> The Bureau of Home Economics released data on the number of families of each type which fall into the various income classes for the 10 small cities and 8 groups of villages for which it reported. Since the Bureau of Labor Statistics has not released similar information up to the present time, this part of the discussion is confined to information released by the Bureau of Home Economics.

For the purposes of this part of the discussion a family type is considered predominant in a given income class if it occurred more frequently than any other type in the majority of the localities.

The data on income by size of family covers only native white families (and Negroes in the Southeast) from small cities and villages. Hence, this distribution of income by family type cannot be considered as typical of the entire sample of 152,000 families.

#### Home Ownership and Rent.

Forty-four percent of all the nonrelief families on which data are available owned their homes. (See table 5.) In general, as incomes increased the proportion of home ownership also increased. Only 32 percent of native white families that received less than \$1,000 owned their homes, while in families with incomes of \$3,000 or more, 66 percent were home owners. Only about one-fifth of the nonrelief Negro families in the Southeast were home owners. This was true primarily because of the predominance of Negroes in the lower-income classes, since the proportion of home owners among Negroes in all income groups above \$1,000 exceeded the proportion for native white families. Larger proportions of home owners among nonrelief families were reported in the Pacific region than in other regions, while those from the Southeast included the smallest proportion. Of the different types of localities, the highest percent of home ownership was found in villages, and this characteristic was true for each income group. For the three types of cities, exclusive of Chicago, home ownership was more prevalent in the large cities enumerated than in either the middle-sized or small cities.

Table 5.—Percentage of Nonrelief Families Owning Their Homes, by Income Classes<sup>1</sup>

Region and community	Total	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 and under \$1,500	\$1,500 and under \$2,000	\$2,000 and under \$3,000	\$3,000 and over
All families studied.....	44.0	31.2	37.7	43.0	57.4	66.0
Region:						
New England.....	35.0	25.8	25.4	24.2	40.7	56.5
East Central <sup>2</sup> .....	40.9	29.4	40.8	48.8	59.9	69.3
Southeastern:						
White.....	32.4	10.4	18.5	27.8	40.5	63.4
Negro.....	21.8	10.2	49.7	64.2	79.7	100.0
West Central.....	48.5	34.6	40.1	45.4	60.2	65.1
Rocky Mountain.....	45.2	34.4	37.5	41.7	54.5	62.8
Pacific.....	45.9	42.7	42.4	47.6	60.8	65.9
Unclassified areas <sup>3</sup> .....	45.9	42.8	45.0	54.0	63.0	70.8
Community:						
1 metropolis (Chicago).....	47.2	35.7	38.0	42.7	55.9	65.1
2 large cities.....	45.1	30.1	37.5	43.2	57.0	65.7
3 middle-size cities.....	38.0	27.2	34.5	41.0	54.9	67.0
25 small cities.....	47.1	39.8	43.5	54.4	69.3	77.0
107 villages.....						

<sup>1</sup> Native white families containing both husband and wife, except in the Southeast, where Negro families containing both husband and wife were also included.

<sup>2</sup> Excluding Chicago.

<sup>3</sup> Families reported in releases covering villages in overlapping regions.

<sup>4</sup> Data not available in comparable form.

Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Home Economics.

Approximately 20 percent of the relief families owned their homes in 24 of the nonfarm communities for which data are available. (See figure 3.) For the individual cities and groups of villages these proportions ranged from approximately 11 percent for both the Negroes in Griffin, Ga., and the native white families in Greenfield, Mass., to approximately 42 percent for the native whites in Olympia, Wash.

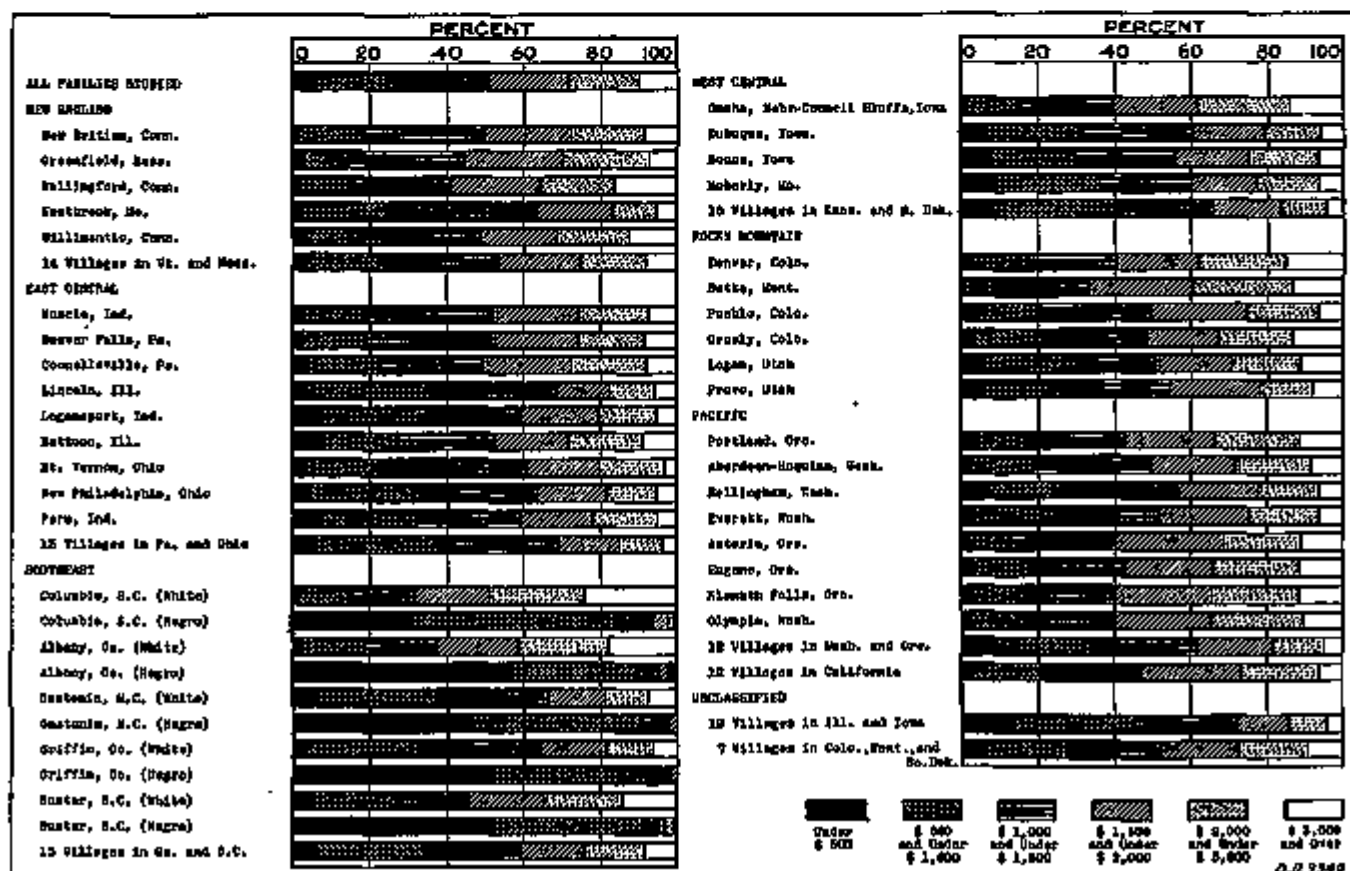


Figure 2.—Percentage Distribution of Nonrelief Families by Income Classes. (U. S. Departments of Agriculture and Labor.)

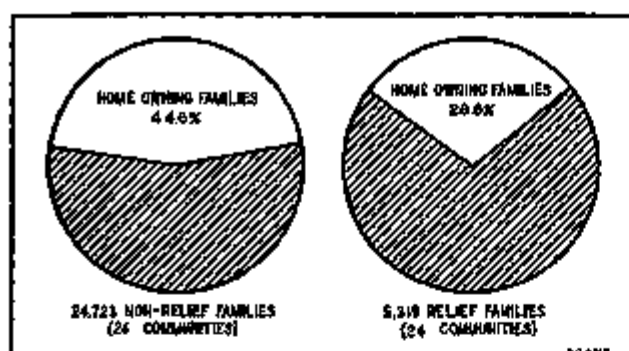


Figure 2.—Percentage of Relief and Nonrelief Families Owning Their Homes, in 24 Communities (U. S. Department of Agriculture).

In the case where data on rents<sup>10</sup> were furnished separately for relief and nonrelief families, the former paid considerably lower rents than did the latter. The average monthly rents of nonrelief families increased as family incomes increased, although the gain was a decreasing proportion of the total income. (See table 6.) Of the native white nonrelief families with incomes below \$1,500 the lowest average monthly rents were paid by those reporting from the Southeast regions. For the families receiving more than \$1,500 the lowest average rents were paid in the East Central area. Rents paid in the Rocky Mountain and West Central areas were higher than in other areas in most income classes. It was not possible to compute figures

<sup>10</sup> Rent payments were tabulated as reported by the tenant, without adjustment for such items as furnishings, heat, light, and janitor services, which were included in some cases and not in others.

for Chicago comparable to those in table 6, but an inspection of the data for this metropolis reveals that the families there paid higher average monthly rents than were paid in any of the other types of localities. Rents varied directly with the size of cities and villages in practically every income class. The average monthly rent for all reporting nonrelief families was 70 percent higher in the large cities than in the villages, with this spread generally increasing with the size of income class.

Table 6.—Average Monthly Rent Paid by Nonrelief Families by Income Classes<sup>1</sup>

Region and community	All reporting nonrelief families	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 and under \$1,500	\$1,500 and under \$2,000	\$2,000 and under \$3,000	\$3,000 and over
All families studied.....	\$25.07	\$12.08	\$17.65	\$22.54	\$27.84	\$30.00
Region:						
New England.....	21.00	13.88	19.47	23.31	28.31	37.43
East Central <sup>2</sup> .....	17.00	12.88	16.23	20.60	24.91	31.38
Southeastern:						
White.....	18.35	9.67	13.95	21.37	27.34	34.21
Negro.....	7.76	7.42	10.79	15.25	20.14	
West Central.....	23.49	15.23	20.82	25.58	31.54	45.13
Rocky Mountain.....	24.21	16.35	19.87	24.68	30.31	45.14
Pacific.....	20.03	14.54	18.81	20.66	25.80	35.93
Unclassified areas <sup>3</sup> .....	14.87	10.41	14.03	18.43	21.87	24.91
Community:						
1 metropolis (Chicago) <sup>4</sup> .....	25.26	17.36	20.79	25.40	31.29	43.31
3 large cities.....	20.11	12.41	18.85	22.61	27.29	37.01
9 middle-size cities.....	18.37	10.42	15.70	20.46	25.11	32.93
25 small cities.....	14.93	11.23	14.80	17.31	20.77	23.70

<sup>1</sup> Native white families containing both husband and wife, except in the Southeast, where Negro families containing both husband and wife were also included.

<sup>2</sup> Excluding Chicago.

<sup>3</sup> Families reported in releases covering villages in overlapping regions.

<sup>4</sup> Data not available by the income classes used in this table.

Sources: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Home Economics.